

How does Emily Dickinson's use of punctuation develop the meaning of the poem in "The Wind's Visit"?

In this lesson you will learn how an author develops the meaning of a poem by analyzing the use of punctuation.

Let's Review

The Wind's Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man,
And like a host, "Come in,"
I boldly answered; entered then
My residence within
A rapid, footless guest,
To offer whom a chair
Were as impossible as hand
A sofa to the air.
No bone had he to bind him,
His speech was like the push
Of numerous humming-birds at once
From a superior bush.

"The Wind's Visit" by Emily Dickinson

- Brief poem
- Describes meeting between the narrator and "the wind"
- Many types of figurative language

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"The Wind's Visit" by Emily Dickinson

- Punctuation helps fluency
- Poetry has unique structure
- "End stops" in poetry
- Enjambment & use of the dash

Core Lesson

- 1 Reread the text aloud multiple times. Notice the use of punctuation.
- 2 Ask, “What meaning was the author trying to convey?”
- 3 Ask, “How does the author’s use of punctuation add to the meaning of the poem ?”

Core Lesson

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What do I
about the
punctua

- Line endings-4 commas; 2 periods
- Within lines-2 commas; 1 semi-colon; 1 quote

Core Lesson

Reread the text aloud multiple times. Notice the use of punctuation.

The Wind's Visit (con't.)

His countenance a billow,
His fingers, if he pass,
Let go a music, as of tunes
Blown tremulous in glass.
He visited, still flitting;
Then, like a timid man,
Again he tapped – 't was flurriedly –
And I became alone.

Emily Dickinson

What do I
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punctua

- Line endings-3 commas; 2 periods; 1 semi-colon; 1 dashed phrase
- Within lines-3 commas

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What meaning was
Emily Dickinson
trying to convey to
the reader?

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Core Lesson

Ask, “How does the author’s use of punctuation add to the meaning of the poem?”

The Wind’s Visit

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What
this
serve

- Only 4 sentences in the entire poem; poem is short like the wind’s visit
- Only one quote (by narrator) in poem; visit so short they cannot communicate
- Use of the dash to rush unrelated words together; shows the rushed nature of the visit

Core Lesson

Ask, How does the author's use of punctuation add to the meaning of the poem?"

- There are only 4 sentences in the entire poem
- Only one quote (by narrator) in poem; visit so short they are unable to communicate
- Is the poem meant to be read as 4 sentences to emphasize how brief the visit?
- Use of the dash to rush unrelated words together shows the rushed nature of visit



The author uses punctuation (only 4 sentences) to emphasize the briefness and hurriedness of the visit as well as the interaction between the narrator and the character.

Core Lesson

How does the author's use of punctuation develop the meaning of the poem?

The author uses end punctuation (four sentences with periods) to emphasize the brevity and hurriedness of the visit between the narrator and the character the wind. This brevity is also reflected in the interaction between the narrator and the wind. Dashes are used by the author to again reflect a rushed or hurried meaning concerning the visit.

Core Lesson

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- 2 Ask, “What meaning was the author trying to convey?”
- 3 Ask, “How does the author’s use of punctuation add to the meaning of the poem?”

In this lesson you have learned how an author develops the meaning of a poem by analyzing the use of punctuation.